REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and re-examination are hereby requested.

The claims have been provisionally rejected for obviousness double patenting. This issued will be addressed when allowable subject matter is found.

The claims stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,214,768) in view of Gaskins (U. S. Patent No. 5,903,911).

Perhaps it might be helpful to review features of Applicants invention. Applicant has the user data pass between the host computer and disk drives through the data transfer section while messages, which control the data passage, flows between the directors through a separate independently operable messaging network. Thus, while the user data passes through the data transfer section the messages used to control the user data flow pass between the directors through a message network. Neither Martin et al. nor Gaskins et al describe or suggest an system where data passes though a data transfer section while *messages* used to control the data flow ___pass BETWEEN the directors THROUGH___ a messaging ___network___.

The cache controller 208 of Gaskins does not ___pass messages BETWEEN the directors THROUGH it. Further, there is nothing in Gaskins which suggest modifying Martin so that___ data passes though a data transfer section while *messages* used to control the data flow ___pass BETWEEN the directors THROUGH___ a messaging ___network___.

In short, nothing in either Martin or Gaskins taken either singly or in combination recognizes or suggests having user data pass thorough a data transfer network while messages used to control such data flow pass between the directors through a message network.

Referring to claim 1, such claim points out that:

> wherein the first and second directors control data transfer between the first directors and the second directors in response to messages passing between the first directors and the second directors **through the messaging network** to facilitate data transfer between first directors and the second directors with such data passing through the cache memory in the data transfer section. (emphasis added)

Such a system is not described or suggested in either Martin or

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Gaskins taken either singly or in combination.

Considering claim 15, such claim points out that the method includes:

transferring messages *through* a messaging network with the data
being transferred between the host computer/server and the bank of disk drives
through a cache memory, such message network being independent of the
cache memory. (emphasis added)

Such a method is not described or suggested in either Martin or
Gaskins taken either singly or in combination.

In the event any additional fee is required, please charge such amount to Patent and
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Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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